No, Sir. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has been provided with adequate grants in Revised Budget Estimates 1998-99 under Non-Plan to take care of essential expenditure for the financial year 1998-99. In addition, grants under Plan have been substantially increased during 1998-99 as compared to previous years despite serious resource constraints.

The Sangathan has already implemented the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission for grant of revised scales of pay to teachers. Eligible Yoga teachers have also been given TGT scales of pay on fulfilment of prescribed conditions. Promotion quota for teachers has been revised from 33⅓% to 50%. Staff quarters are also under construction.

UNICEF report about illiteracy in India

1966. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the UNICEF report "State of the World's children-1999" concluding that by the turn of the century i.e. 2000 A.D. India would be the world's most illiterate nation;

(b) if yes, the percentage of illiterates in the country at present and at the end of 2000 as per UNICEF report; and how these figures compare with National Sample Survey's latest report; and

(c) the main reasons to which the highest percentage of illiterate is attributable and the steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the said report, the percentage of adult illiterates in the country has been started to be 34% Male and 62% Female during the year 1995. No specific projected figures of adult illiterates in the country at the end of 2000 has been reported. The UNICEF report on "The State of the World's Children 1999" is a book about the right of the child to education. The references to literacy in the document are incidental and the adult literacy rates indicated in the report are based on the 1991 census data according to which the literacy rate in India was 52.21%. According to the National Sample Survey Organisation, which has recently releseased the figures of the 53rd round, the literacy rate in the country at the end of 1997 was 62%.

(c) India does not have the highest percentage of illiterates.

Status for women in Indian Society

1967. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governemnt are aware of the news-item appearing in Hindustan Times, dated the 15th December, 1998, captioned 'Destruction awaits Society which ill-treats its women', the theory based on Mahabharata and other Hindu scriptures, according to a Nepali woman journalist; and

(b) what concrete steps are proposed to achieve the status for women in Indian society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SUSHREE UMA BHARATI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is making continuous efforts to raise the status of women in Indian Society. The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also empowers the